

**Housing and Community Development Division
Utah Department of Workforce Services**



UINTAH BASIN REVITALIZATION FUND

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2015**

**Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund Board
1385 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
(801) 468-0133**

UINTAH BASIN REVITALIZATION FUND

Overview

The Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund was created to maximize the long term benefit of oil and gas severance taxes derived from lands held in trust by the Federal Government for the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. It was construed to promote cooperation and coordination between the state, its political subdivisions and the tribe.

Statutory Authority

The Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund (UBRF) is a program of the State of Utah authorized in Section 35A-8-1601, et seq. The goal of the UBRF is to provide grants and/or loans (primarily grants) to agencies of county and tribal government in the Uintah Basin, which are impacted by the development of oil and gas interests held in trust for the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation and its members.

Board Membership

The UBRF is controlled by a five-member board (The Board) comprised of a governor's designee, a Duchesne County Commissioner, a Uintah County Commissioner and two representatives of the Ute Indian Tribe's Business Committee.

The Housing and Community Development Division (HCD) within the Utah Department of Workforce Service (DWS) provides administrative and operational support to the UBRF. This is accomplished through an application, contracting and tracking system at HCD. HCD administers the application, contracting, financial processes and all day to day operations of the fund.

Eligible Applicants

The UBRF Board may authorize grants and/or loans to agencies of Duchesne County, Uintah County or the Ute Indian Tribe that are or may be socially or economically impacted, directly or indirectly, by development of oil and gas interests held in trust for the Ute Indian Tribe.

Formal applications for UBRF grants are submitted by the respective county commissions or the tribal Business Committee to HCD. HCD prepares the meeting agendas and arranges all meetings. The Board approves all applications and all decisions of the Board require four affirmative votes.

Eligible Projects

- Capital projects, including subsidized and low-income housing, and other one-time need projects and programs.
- Projects and programs associated with the geographic area where the oil and gas are produced.

Prohibited Activities

- Start-up or operational costs of private business ventures.
- General operating budgets of Duchesne County, Uintah County or the Ute Indian Tribe.

Funding Process

- The UBRF reviews applications and authorizes funding assistance on a periodic basis. Meetings are generally held quarterly. The majority of funded activities are for public facilities followed by utilities and housing.

Funding Guidelines

- Each year, generally at the August meeting, the UBRF allocates its annual revenue between the three eligible entities based on a statutory formula that allocates an equal amount to Duchesne and Uintah County and a higher amount to the Tribe. In 2014 the fund was statutorily capped at \$6,408,541.

Funding Update

The number of projects funded and the amount of money allocated from the fund hit an historic high in 2011. This was due not only to increased oil and gas production but also to a significant increase in effort by the Ute Tribe to allocate and spend available funding. The board and staff continue to work diligently in conjunction with the Ute Business Committee to increase the expenditure rate of funds. Unfortunately, this year due to illness with the Ute Business Committee staff and elections application for funding from the Ute Tribe was very light. However, activity is increasing and efforts are underway to allocate and spend all available funding.

Table 1
Approved Projects FY13–15

	2013		2014		2015	
Project Category	#	UBRF \$	#	UBRF \$	#	UBRF \$
Planning	2	256,379				
Housing	5	2,464,767	2	210,000	2	360,000
Public Facility	4	399,000	2	800,000	1	97,577
Public Safety	5	1,150,000	3	1,730,000	2	925,000
Recreation/Culture	6	192,271	4	1,569,440	6	2,406,644
Transportation	5	430,000	2	122,000	1	80,000
Utility	5	540,000	1	75,000	1	281,000
Totals	20	5,432,417	14	4,506,440	13	4,150,221

Table 2
UBRF Board Members
(As of 10/1/15)

Member

John Harja, Chairman
Ron Wopsock
Edred Secakuku
Commissioner Michael McKee
Commissioner Ron Winterton

Representing

Governor's Office
Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee
Ute Indian Tribe Business Committee
Uintah County
Duchesne County

For more information, contact Keith Heaton at (801) 468-0133.